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Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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O 161254Z SEP 76 CORRECTED COPY MCN ONLY
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5550

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 04178

NODIS-CHEROKEE

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUB: SECRETARY'S VISIT: MEETING WITH PROMINENT SOUTH AFRICANS

1. FOLLOWING HAVE ACCEPTED INVITATIONS FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY AT 5:00PM. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18: LEONARD ABRAHAMSE, COLIN EGLIN, SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF, WILLEM DE KLERK, SIR RICHARD LUYT, JAN MARAIS, SAM MOTSUENYANE, TERTIUS MYBURGH, PERCY QOBOZA, DR. RICHARD VAN DER ROSS, DR. GERRIT VILJOEN. FOLDERS WITH BRIEFING MEMO, PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL BIO SKETCHES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PARTY UPON ARRIVAL. BRIEFING MEMO REPEATED BELOW.

2. MEETING WITH PROMINENT SOUTH AFRICANS: BACKGROUND: (CONTINUE FULL TEXT).

THE GROUP INCLUDES LEADERS OF OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES, BUSINESSMEN, EDUCATORS AND PRESSMEN, FORMING A SPECTRUM OF INFORMED OPINION RANGING FROM THOSE WHO FIRMYLY SUPPORT SAG POLICIES TO OTHERS DEDICATED TO RADICAL CHANGE.

CLOSEST TO THE GOVERNMENT'S POINT OF VIEW IS DR. VILJOEN, A DISTINGUISHED AFRIKANER ACADEMICIAN WHO HEAD THE RAND AFRIKAANS UNIVERSITY. HE LEADS THE SEMI-SECRET AFRIKANER BROTHERHOOD, IS VERY INFLUENTIAL BEHIND THE SCENES, AND MAY EMERGE AMONG THE NATIONS'S TOP WHITE LEADERS IN THE FUTURE. INDUSTRIALIST AND BANKER JAN MARAIS ADOPTS A
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SOMEWHAT MORE INDEPENDENT PUBLIC POSITION. HE HEADS THE SOUTH AFRICA FOUNDATION, AN ORGANIZATION SPONSORED BY SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN WHICH EMPHASIZES THE FAVORABLE

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SIDE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S IMAGE. EDITOR OF THE AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER -TRANSVALER WILLEM "WIMPIE" DE KLERK HAS IN RECENT MONTHS BEEN OUTSPOKEN IN ENCOURAGING AFRIKANERS TO CONSIDER THE NECESSITY FOR MAKING SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN RACE POLICY. LEONARD ABRAHAMSE IS AN ARTICULATE, WELL INFORMED AND LIBERAL AFRIKANER BUSINESSMAN. TERTIUS MYBURG, EDITOR OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUNDAY TIMES, IS A VIGOROUS CRITIC OF THE GOVERNMENT.

SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF, LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION (UNITED PARTY) IS A RESPECTED BUT WANING POLITICAL FIGURE. HIS PARTY NO LONGER OFFERS CLEAR ALTERNATIVES TO GOVERNM-ENT POLICY AS A RESULT HAS SUFFERED A SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE IN INFLUENCE IN RECENT YEARS. HE RECENTLY OFFERED TO RESIGN IN FAVOR OF SOME NEW LIBERAL FRONT WHICH COULD MORE EFFECTIVELY BRING TOGETHER THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE PROCESS OF CHANGE MUST BE ACCELERATED. COLIN EGLIN, LEAD-ING THE PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY, HAS SEEN HIS PARTY GAIN STRENGTH IN THE PAST YEAR, BUT STILL FALL FAR SHORT OF BEING ABLE TO PRODUCE AN IMPACT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S COURSES OF ACTION. SAG LEADERS HAVE STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT SOME PRP MEMBERS ARE DOWNRIGHT DISLOYAL AND MIGHT HAVE TO SUFFER FOR IT. THE COMBINED OPPOSITION HOLDS ONLY 48 OF THE 171 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS.

SAM MOTSUENYANE IS PROBABLY SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST SUCCESSFUL BLACK ENTREPRENEUR. WHILE HE HAS AVOIDED POLITICS, HE HAS NOT HESITATED TO BE STRONGLY CRITICAL OF SAG POLICIES THAT LIMIT BLACK OPPORTUNITIES. DR. VAN DER ROSS, A LEADING COLORED EDUCATOR, HAS FACED GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN RECENT WEEKS AS HIS UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE CAMPUS BECAME ONE OF THE FOCAL POINTS FOR COLORED VIOLENCE IN THE CAPE PROVINCE. HE HAS TRIED TO HOLD A FINE LINE BETWEEN OPPOSING GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROTECTING THE LONGER TERM INTERESTS OF HIS PUPILS IN TRYING TO INSURE THAT RADICALS DO NOT DESTROY FACILITIES NEEDED FOR EDUCATION. SIR RICHARD LUYT IS AN ABLE ADMINISTRATOR WHO HAS THE DELICATE TASK OF RUNNING THE MOST LIBERAL
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OF THE WHITE UNIVERSITIES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, WHILE PERSONALLY BEING OUT OF SYMPATHY WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY.

PERCY QOBOZA, IS THE NEWS EDITOR OF THE LEADING BLACK NEWSPAPER, THE WORLD, AND IS A VIGOROUS AND ARTICULATE
M
SPOKESMAN FOR BLACK CAUSES. YOU MET HIM AT A NIEMAN FELLOW BREAKFAST IN APRIL, 1976.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

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THE RANGE OF CONFLICTING VIEWPOINTS SHOULD GENERATE A STIMULATING EXCHANGE. SOME WILL WISH TO BE ASSURED THAT SOUTH AFRICA CAN BUY TIME AND UNDERSTANDING FROM THE WEST, AND THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR, TO COPE WITH RACIAL PROBLEMS BY BEING MORE FORTHCOMING ON NAMIBIA AND TO A LESSER EXTENT RHODESIA. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, KNOWING THAT MANY BLACKS MISTRUST THE CURRENT PROCESS BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THE U.S. IS ONLY ACTING TO PRESERVE ITS ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WILL SEEK EVIDENCE THAT THE U.S. WILL ACT TO BRING ABOUT CHANGES IN SAG DOMESTIC RACIAL POLICIES.

QUESTIONS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES MAY BE USEFUL:

1. WHAT STEPS COULD THE SAG REALISTICALLY TAKE TO SET A NEW COURSE IN RACE RELATIONS?

2. WHY DO THEY BELIEVE THE SAG HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES, AND WHAT DOMESTIC CONDISTIONS COULD ENCOURAGE MORE RAPID MOVEMENT?

3. WHAT KIND OF POLITICAL DISPENSATION DO THEY BELIEVE COULD EVOLVE THAT WOULD BRING AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS?

4. WHAT CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE CAN THE U.S.PLAY IN ENCOURAG-ING THE SAG TO MOVE AWAY FROM DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES?
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 16 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PLANNING MEETINGS, MINORITIES, POLITICAL LEADERS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 09/16/76
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRETOR04178
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P840109-2264, N760007-0012
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609108/baaaenoe.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S VISIT: MEETING WITH PROMINENT SOUTH AFRICANS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, SF, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: LUSAKA INFO STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006